

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 5 - 7 is acknowledged.

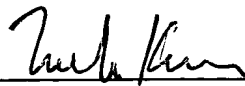
By the present amendment, claims 1 - 4, the only claims under rejection have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, such that the rejection of claims 1 - 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kochu (JP2001-067049) in view of Kawaguchi et al (6,677,925) has been obviated and discussion of the cited art in relation to such claims is considered unnecessary.

Since only allowed claims 5 - 7 remain in this application, applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 501.42940X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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